



NSS Life
Family Matters...

Národné Noviny

APRIL 2025

Providing Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 | NATIONAL NEWS | NUMBER 3600 | VOLUME 117

HAPPY Easter



Financial Statements

2024 Annual
Financial Statement Recap

See Page 7

BOWLING HOLLYWOOD Casino
at THE MEADOWS

**NSS Joint National
Bowling Tournament**
May 16-17, 2025

210 Racetrack Road, Washington, PA

See Pages 11-12

**MAY ART
CONTEST**

Deadline May 31, 2025

See Page 27



National Slovak Society

Periodical Postage Paid at Canonsburg, Pennsylvania and Additional Mailing Offices
Owned and Published by the



NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Organized February 16, 1890
1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317
ISSN: 0027-7940

Phone: (724) 731-0094 -- E-Mail: info@nsslife.org
NSS Website: www.nsslife.org
Fax No: 724-731-0145

Founder and Honorary President, Peter V. Rovnianek

EDITOR

Lori Crowley
Published Monthly
Send articles for publication to:
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317
Deadline: 5th of preceding month

NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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John G. Payerchin, *FIC, CRCMP, Secretary-Treasurer, CFO*
Robert F. Katricak, *FIC, Chairman of the Board*

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FSWFE merged with NSS in 1997

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Could you use a little extra "Green?"

RECOMMENDER FORM

As a proud member of NSS Life, now is the best time to share your experience with family and friends. Best of all, you will receive a cash reward (\$25 or \$10 for a youth term product) for recommending each person we issue a policy.

Recommender Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Prospect Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Do you need a Change of Address?

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please use this form to register your change of address for the *National News* and mail to the Home Office. Upon receipt of this form completed in its entirety, the staff will immediately implement the change. *Thank you.*

Change of Address Information:

Full Name: _____

Certificate #: _____ Assembly #: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Former Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Activities At A Glance

REGION 2

Assemblies L075, 0617

April 12	Assembly L075, Meeting, Grandes, Moosic, PA
May 10	Assembly L075, Join Hands Day, KOC Hall, Pittson, PA at 12 Noon
May 17	Region 2, Meeting, Grotto Pizza, Wilkes-Barre, PA at 1:00 pm
June 8	Region 2, Moosic 5k Run/Walk at 9:00 am
August 7	Assembly 0617, Fraternal Day (Tentatively set)
November (TBA)	Assembly 0617, Join Hands Day at St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen

REGION 5

Assemblies 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0731, 0737, 0774

April 7	Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm
April 25	Assembly L-161, Matching Funds, Hoagie Sale, Order sue.ondrejco@gmail by 3/28
April 27	Assembly 0377, Meeting/Luncheon, Domenico's, Monessen, PA at 3:00 pm
May 1	Assembly L-161, Meeting, Dukes Upper Deck, Homestead, PA at 7:00 pm
May 4	Assembly 0737, Meeting, Time and place to be announced
June 8	Assembly 0731, Golf Outing, Bedford Trails, Lowellville, OH
June 8	Assembly 0039, Summer Bar-B-Que, Columbia Association Picnic Pavilion at 1:00 pm
June 20	Assembly 0731, Picnic/Baseball Game, Niles, OH at 5:00 pm
June 14	Assembly 0123, Global Links, Pittsburgh, PA at 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
August 3	Assembly 0377, Meeting/Picnic, Richardson's Park, Bentleyville, PA at 3:00 pm
September 14	Assembly 0039, Fall Meeting, Bob Evan's Restaurant, (Community Room) at 6:00 pm
September 22	Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm
October 12	Assembly 0377, Meeting/Luncheon, Sesame Gourmet, McMurray, PA at 3:00 pm
October 12	Assembly 0731, Halloween Hayride, Countryside Farm, Poland, OH
November 2	Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 2:00 pm
December 7	Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Columbia Association Social Hall at 2:00 pm
December 7	Assembly 0377, Christmas Party/Meeting, Hugo's, West Brownsville, PA at 3:00 pm
December 7	Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Lariccia Center, Boardman Park, OH

REGION 8

Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

April 6	Assembly 0070, Meeting, Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH at 11:00 am
April 16	Region 8, Meeting, Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, OH at 7:00 pm
June 10	Assembly 0432, Meeting, Pytel residence, N. Olmstead, OH at 7:00 pm
June 21	Assembly 0432, Mini Golf, Fore Corners, Parma, OH at 2:00 pm
September 16	Assembly 0432, Meeting, Pytel residence, N. Olmstead, OH at 7:00 pm
December 8	Assembly 0432, Meeting/Christmas Party, Tony K's, Berea, OH at 7:00 pm

REGION 14

Assemblies R059, L102

May 11	Assembly L102, Join Hands Day Butztown Post Office at 12 noon.
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AT LARGE

Assemblies L002, R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0267, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0800, 0813

April 21	Assembly 0813, Meeting, Farrell residence, Dothan, AL at 2:00 pm
May 22	Assembly 0813, Meeting, Farrell residence, Dothan, AL at 6:00 pm
June 14	Assembly 0813, Meeting, Farrell residence, Dothan, AL at 6:00 pm
August 17	Assembly 0813, Meeting, Farrell residence, Dothan, AL at 2:00 pm
October 27	Assembly 0813, Meeting, Farrell residence, Dothan, AL at 6:00 pm
November 26	Assembly 0813, Meeting, Farrell residence, Dothan, AL (TBA)



The President's Page...

Joseph Stefka, Jr., FIC, President, CEO
Email: jstefka@nsslife.org



The weather in the Pittsburgh area over the last two weeks of February has been filled with colder than normal temperatures, snow, and freezing rain. Hoping that the Pittsburgh area weather by the time this publication reaches you in early April will be trending warmer, with sunshine, days with more daylight hours, and a greening of the landscape. I guess Punxsutawney Phil was correct with his prediction in early February of six more weeks of winter weather!

Some dates to remember in the month of April include April Fool's Day on April 1st, Federal Tax Day on April 15th, Good Friday on April 18th, Easter on April 20th, Earth Day on April 22nd, and Administrative Professionals Day on April 23rd.

As we celebrate Easter on April 20th, on behalf of the Executive Officers, Board of Directors, and Home Office Staff, and my family, I would like to wish each of you a Blessed and Happy Easter as you gather for the holiday with your families. The Home Office will be closed for business on April 18th and April 21st so that our Home Office Staff may enjoy the holiday with their families. The Home Office will open for business on Tuesday, April 22nd.

The 2024 Annual Financial Statement of the National Slovak Society indicates that the Society had another successful year while growing in a controlled manner. Our Secretary-Treasurer/CFO John Payerchin will provide details of the Statement elsewhere in this issue. Some highlights of NSS Operations for 2024 include the following. Net Income for the year was \$6,184,814, prior to capital and surplus adjustments. Admitted Assets increased to \$1,836,887,272. Surplus increased to

\$99,841,435, an increase of 5.25%. Total Adjusted Capital for the year increased \$8,651,121 to \$120,694,900, an increase of 7.76%. Total Adjusted Capital is used by regulators and rating agencies to judge the strength of our Society. It is calculated by adding the Surplus, Asset Valuation Reserve, and one-half of the dividend liability. The NSS Solvency Ratio, another metric used to indicate our financial strength, increased to 105.75 in 2024. NSS membership also increased in 2024 marking twenty years of continued growth! The NSS has grown over the past year in all aspects of our operation while our members have earned competitive yields on their annuities. The Board of Directors kept the annuity crediting rates stable over the past year benefiting our annuity holders while increasing the metrics related to our financial strength. The higher crediting rates have reduced Net Income which is affected by the difference between the rate we credit on our annuities and the rate we earn on our investment portfolio.

The NSS was contacted by our rating agency, Kroll Bond Rating Agency, in early December regarding our annual rating surveillance process. NSS Officers, Home Office Staff, and Society Advisors submitted documentation regarding all aspects of our operations over the past year to KBRA through early February. On February 11th, the Executive Officers, National Sales Director, members of our actuarial firm Miller & Newberg, and our Asset Management Team AQS provided KBRA with a presentation highlighting our strengths and accomplishments over the past year. Following the presentation and the submission of additional documentation, KBRA's rating team issued the rating on February 28, 2025. The National Slovak Society KBRA Insurance Financial Strength Rating (IFSR) is BBB+. The Outlook was raised from Stable to Positive. KBRA's press release indicates, "The Outlook revision to Positive from Stable reflects the favorable long-term growth trends in earnings, capital growth, and strategic execution. Consistent profitability trends over the long-term are underpinned by annuity spread management, above-benchmark investment yields, and effective crediting rate adjustments largely mitigating disintermediation risks. New money and reinvestment rates have strength-

ened without compromising asset credit quality, allowing for competitive crediting and bonus rates while maintaining surplus growth." The rating surveillance report will be analyzed and used by the Board of Directors, the Executive Officers, and the NSS management team to continue to strengthen our operation.

A reminder that Federal income tax is due on Tuesday, April 15th. You have until April 15th to contribute to your current NSS IRA or open a new NSS IRA for the tax year 2024. Our current annuity crediting rate for the Preferred 8+ is 6.5 % for the first year and the Optimum 3 yield is 5.00% guaranteed for the first three years! Contact your agent or Home Office Sales Representative Joe Elliott at 1-800-488-1890 or by email at jelliott@nsslife.org to start saving for your future.

The deadline for submitting entries for the May Art Contest to the Home Office is May 31st. The contest again includes an adult category as part of the contest. Assembly officers, parents, and grandparents, please encourage our youth members to participate in the contest. All entrants will receive an NSS Life T-shirt. The monetary prizes for the winning entries have been increased. Please check the rules for the contest located elsewhere in this issue. The entries are judged by an outside art professional.

Attention high school seniors planning to continue your education, the deadline for applying for the PVR Scholarship is May 1st. Guidelines were included in the February issue of the *National News*. Please be sure to complete the PVR Scholarship application and submit it by the deadline. The PVR Scholarship has been a part of the National Slovak Society since 1966. The PVR Scholarship is one of the most valuable fraternal benefits offered by the NSS, assisting with educating the future leaders of not only our Society but our country! This is an opportunity to get additional funds to help with your college expenses. If you have not requested an application and are interested in applying, please contact NSS Member and Community Engagement Coordinator Bethany Bonnar at 412-770-2093 or by email at bbonnar@nsslife.org. Time is running out to take advantage of this important benefit!

The Joint Fraternal Bowling Tournament is scheduled for May 16 - 17,

2025, at the Hollywood Casino at the Meadows in Washington, Pennsylvania. It is not too late to get a team together to join in the weekend of bowling and fraternalism. Hope to see you at the tournament in May!

News of Narodniars

Special April Birthday wishes to my daughter Ashley Bernardo, to NSS Directors Keith Kucherawy and Drew Wesnak, former NSS Director Bill Knoll, Home Office Staff Members Bethany Bonnar, Krista Freund, Lisa Shriver, and Sue Urcho, to Rudy Ondrejco, Jeff Lavin, Alexa Woods, Chloe Woods, and to all others celebrating a birthday in April!

Happy wedding anniversary wishes to all NSS couples celebrating in the month of April!

In early March, the NSS received word that former NSS Home Office Staff Member, LaVerne Orban passed away. LaVerne was a dedicated and valued employee of the NSS for thirteen and one-half years serving in our Claims Department. My deepest sympathy to the Orban family.

Recently, NSS Fraternalist of the Year for 2016 and President of Assembly 588 John Bebo, Jr. passed away unexpectedly. My deepest sympathy to Florence Bebo and the Bebo family. John was an active member of the NSS and proudly served as President of Assembly 588 for over twenty-five years.

NSS also received a message that Albina Senko passed away. Albina, was an NSS member and wife of the Slovak Honorary Consul to Pennsylvania Joseph Senko. Albina was a regular attendee at NSS celebrations and events. My deepest sympathy to Joe and the Senko family.

May God provide Peace and comfort to the Orban, Bebo, and Senko families at this most difficult time.

“

God, give us eyes to see the beauty of the Spring and to behold Your majesty in every living thing. And may we see in lacy leaves and every budding flower the Hand that rules the universe, with gentleness and power. And may this Easter grandeur, that Spring lavishly imparts, awaken faded flowers of faith lying dormant in our hearts. And give us ears to hear, dear God, the Springtime song of birds with messages more meaningful than man's often empty words, telling harried human beings who are lost in dark despair—'Be like us and do not worry for God has you in His care.' Amen.”

HELEN STEINER RICE



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As a member of the **National Slovak Society**, you and your family are eligible for exclusive Start Hearing benefits.

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Call our Hearing Care Advisors at **(888) 705-6920** to take advantage of your exclusive discounts.

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*Professional service fees may apply.

Secretary-Treasurer's Page

John Payerchin, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Email: jpayerchin@nsslife.org



Happy Easter. As Easter fast approaches, we are reminded of all the blessings that God has richly showered upon us. God gave his son to save us from our sins, then raised him to give us everlasting life with Him and in Him. We tend to forget this valued gift throughout the year, except for holidays, events or in time of need. God is with us always and we should praise him every day.

We have completed the 2024 Financial statement. I have a few highlights:

Assets grew by \$30,842,303 to \$1,836,887,272.

Surplus grew by \$4,983,016 to \$99,841,435.

Membership grew, exceeding the 41,000 mark.

These numbers highlight NSS Life's continued growth and strength, even in uncertain and sometimes volatile markets. We continue to strive for growth while protecting our members and their financial futures. The NSS team of Executives, Board of Directors, home office staff, agents and advisors always strive to achieve this growth and keep the best interests of our members at the forefront.

These numbers only show a fraction of the success of NSS. Our home office team continues to grow and remain ahead of the curve with industry trends, regulations, and training. The wealth of knowledge of the staff is second to none, all while providing the highest customer service and experience to our members and agents.

It is hard to believe we are through the first quarter of 2025 already. The PVR Committee continues to work to reach our goal of \$2 million dollars

by the June 2026 convention. If you are interested in helping us reach that goal, please send your check made out to the PVR Scholarship Fund to the home office. You can make your donation in memory of a loved-one, in celebration of new child, niece or nephew, or grandchild. You will be recognized in the magazine. Every dollar counts and matters. The \$2 million dollar amount was determined based on the ability to fund the scholarships with the interest the fund earns without touching the principal.

I want to thank all the assemblies that have returned their year-end reports to me. If you have not sent them in yet, please send them to me, so I can complete the fraternal report for 2024 and submit the data to the American Fraternal Alliance. Forms are also available on the website to fill out and print or print a blank and handwrite the information.

We continue to work on the new portals for members and agents. We recently saw a demonstration of the new portals and it looks awesome. We are going to be on a push to get our members to sign up for portal access. Not only for their financial information, but for us to use the system to keep you informed of National, Region, and local Assembly events and information. You will be able to register for events at all levels and stay up to date with any information or potential changes for each event. To register, you will just need an email and your policy account information. If you have multiple roles within NSS Life, such as an agent, assembly or region leader, in addition to a member, you will have a single sign on to see all of your information. Bethany Bonnar, our Member and Community Engagement Coordinator, has put a tremendous amount of time and effort into making the portal a giant step forward for NSS Life and our ability to communicate across all of the NSS family.

Do you know the origins of the Easter Bunny? The Easter Bunny has a fascinating history that dates back to ancient times. The character we know today as the Easter Bunny has evolved from various cultural and religious traditions.

The origins of the Easter Bunny can be traced back to European pre-history, where the hare was a symbol of

fertility and rebirth. During the Neolithic age in Europe, hares were given ritual burials alongside humans, which archaeologists interpret as a religious ritual symbolizing rebirth. In classical Greek tradition, hares were sacred to Aphrodite, the goddess of love, and were often depicted as symbols of unquenchable desire.

In the folk traditions of England and Germany, the figure of the hare became specifically connected to Easter. Accounts from the 1600s in Germany describe children hunting for Easter eggs hidden by the Easter hare, much like the Easter egg hunts we see today.

The Easter Bunny was introduced to America by German immigrants who brought over their stories of an egg-laying hare. Over time, the Easter Bunny became a prominent secular symbol of the Christian holiday, often depicted as a rabbit bringing Easter eggs.

God bless all of you and your families this Easter Season. May God warm you with His light. Pray for all of those who are alone, sick, in pain, or suffering. May God protect all of our troops serving abroad and within the US who are away from their loved ones.

Happy Easter

Easter Surprise!

Easter eggs,
Yellow and blue.
Easter eggs,
For me and you

Easter eggs,
Candy sweet.
Easter eggs
Are good to eat.

Easter eggs,
Pretty and Funny.
But ... where oh where
Is the Easter bunny?





2024 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT RECAP

NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE USA Comparative Statement of Financial Condition for 2024 & 2023

Net Admitted Assets	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023
Bonds	\$1,589,987,820	\$1,574,225,871
Preferred Stocks	4,671,600	4,086,280
Common Stocks	10,581,523	7,211,402
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate	159,948,948	130,050,075
Certificate Loans	1,045,317	970,114
Cash on Deposit	41,358,523	67,365,335
Real Estate Occupied by Society	3,224,615	3,292,610
Other Invested Assets	6,994,271	0
Uncollected Premiums	107,666	188,692
Investment Income Due	18,966,989	18,654,590
Total Assets	\$1,836,887,272	\$1,806,044,969
Liabilities and Unassigned Funds	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023
Aggregate Reserves	\$1,648,664,000	\$1,619,692,000
Deposit-type Contracts	59,426,015	66,067,814
Certificate Claims	350,000	500,000
Commissions Due	525,000	594,000
Refunds Due and Unpaid	1,330,000	1,180,000
General Expenses Due	2,632,000	2,376,000
Retained by Society as Trustee	37,041	98,535
Asset Valuation Reserve (AVR)	19,694,900	16,080,300
Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR)	4,386,881	4,597,901
Contingency Reserve	150,000	150,000
Unassigned Funds	99,691,435	94,708,419
Total Liabilities	\$1,836,887,272	\$1,806,044,969
Surplus Account	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023
Beginning Surplus	\$94,858,419	\$91,894,286
Net Income	6,184,814	5,981,020
Change in Net Unrealized Capital Gains or (Losses)	500,598	123,235
Change in Non-admitted Assets	1,202,650	(818,135)
Change in Valuation Reserve	(3,614,600)	(2,537,500)
Aggregate Write-ins for Gains and Losses in Surplus	-	-
Net Change in Surplus	4,983,016	2,964,133
Surplus At Statement Date	\$99,841,435	\$94,858,419
Summary of Operations	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023
Income:		
Premium & Annuity Considerations	\$231,844,603	\$244,904,409
Net Investment Income	90,295,033	86,810,661
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR)	699,659	695,444
Aggregate Write-ins for Misc. Inc.	0	0
Total Income	\$322,839,295	\$332,410,514
Expenses:		
Death Benefits	\$13,781,141	\$13,178,693
Matured Endowments	40,420	18,997
Annuity Benefits	253,163,787	251,615,462
Disability Benefits	3,577	4,584
Surrender Benefits	760,895	623,097
Interest on Deposit Type Contracts	16,176	16,296
Increase in Aggregate Reserve for Life Contracts	28,972,000	44,021,000
Commissions on Direct Business	5,463,125	6,431,258
General & Fraternal Expenses	13,055,788	9,224,284
Insurance, Taxes, Licenses, & Fees	604,269	232,165
Total Expenses	\$315,861,178	\$325,365,836
Summary:		
Net Gain from Operations Before Refunds to Members	\$6,978,119	\$7,044,678
Refunds to Members	(1,293,903)	(1,186,893)
Net Gain from Operations Before Refunds to Members	5,684,216	5,857,785
Net Realized Capital Gains	500,598	123,235
TOTAL NET INCOME	\$6,184,814	\$5,981,020

Current Interest Rates

★ Effective January 1, 2024 ★

Optimum 3 - 5.00%

Preferred 5 - 4.00%

New Preferred 8 - 6.50%* (For First Year Only)

Existing Preferred 8 - 4.25%

(Preferred 7 and Flex earning 4.25%, these plans are no longer available.)

Please contact your NSS Life financial service representative or
Joe Elliott in the Home Office at 1-800-488-1890.



Did you know...

You can add money to almost any
Annuity with NSS, just send us a check.
Any additional funds will not increase the
time period on early withdrawal penalties.

Access your account values 24/7
by going to the website:
www.nsslife.org
and login/register as a member.



Life insurance is love insurance.

Put your love into action with life insurance.

Life Happens.

From the Sales Department...

Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC, Sales Director
Email: gfelton@nsslife.org



Life insurance Inheritance

Life insurance is purchased for a specific purpose or need. Some examples would be to pay for final expenses, mortgage, college expenses, retirement and create an income stream. Some people want to leave a legacy to their heirs. Life insurance is a unique product that can do all these things in a fair and equitable manner. An example would be the mother with two sons and one of them lives with her. The other son is married, has children, and his own home. When mom passes away, she wants the son that lives with her to have the house. But she wants to be fair to the other son. The most equitable situation would be to evaluate the home price and insure mom for at least 50% of that value. Upon passing, one son stays in the home and the other receives his fair share from the life insurance plan.

Another example would be the female business owner with three children. One is in business with her and the other two have moved on with their lives. When she passes away, will she leave the business to the one child to the detriment of the other two? The answer is no. Again, life insurance is the solution. The business value would be determined. She would buy life insurance to pay the other two off in cash and the other child gets the business. Life insurance is a fantastic financial product that can protect you and your family. Call your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the home office for more information.

Deducting a traditional IRA

A person may deduct their IRA contributions up until April 15th of this year for the 2024 tax year. There are rules that must be followed to claim a deduction. A person must have earned income and meet some income guidelines. Assuming eligibility, how does this work? A 50-year-old person makes an \$8,000 IRA contribution and based on their income they are in the 22% tax bracket. Multiply twenty-two times \$8,000 and this IRA saved them \$1,760 in taxes. Double that if they make a spousal contribution. In a sense, the government is helping to subsidize your retirement funds. And that is why at retirement age when you start to withdraw money from your IRA there are taxes due. The critical point is that money can be saved on taxes while building a retirement fund. April 15th is on a Tuesday this year. Contributions before April 15th can be for either the 2024 or 2025 tax year. We need to know that fact. After April 15th, all contributions will be for the 2025 tax year.

Personal Financial Planning

What are the basic steps to setting up a personal financial plan? There are a few steps to get started. First, evaluate where you are, list expenses and income. Next, set a goal. Be specific. I want to save \$10,000 within 2 years. Then devise a plan to help you get there. In this example, it may be necessary to save \$400 per month. Using our annuity products we can forecast your progress. Finally, monitor your progress on a regular basis. Afterwards, make any necessary adjustments. This simple plan will put you in the top tier of savers and improve your life immeasurably.

Why your children need life insurance:

- + Secure your child's future insurability
- + Can build cash value that accumulates to fund major life milestones
- + Provides financial support for things like a funeral, medical expenses or leaving a legacy

LH.

Thought For The Month:

The secret to getting ahead is to get started.

Mark Twain, an American writer (1835-1910)

The Community Corner

Bethany Bonnar,
Member & Community Engagement Coordinator
Email: bbonnar@nsslife.org



In my opinion, spring is the best time of the year! It's a great time to shake off the frost from winter and spend more time outside and in your community! Outdoor cleanups are a cheap and easy way to make a difference in your community! I encourage you to take part in some "spring cleaning" of your environment! Last "bud" not least, make sure to check out all the fun NSS Life activities coming up in your local area, and from the home office! There's no such thing as too much of a good "spring", when it comes to being involved with NSS Life!



2025 National Bowling Tournament

The 2025 National Bowling Tournament is quickly approaching! Please "spare" me from having to convince you to sign up! Instead, join us on May 16-17th at the Hollywood Casino at the Meadows in Washington, Pennsylvania. On Friday, May 16th, we will host team competitions and enjoy a buffet dinner! In the morning on Saturday, May 17th, singles and doubles competition will take place followed by lunch at the bowling alley! Whether you're competing to take home the top prize, or you just want to have some laughs with your NSS friends, we hope to see you

there! Entry forms can be found later in this edition and online at www.nsslife.org, and are due back by **April 14th**.

PVR Scholarships

Time is running out to apply for the 2025-2026 PVR Scholarship! To qualify for the scholarship, the applicant must be the insured party on an active life insurance policy or the annuitant on an active annuity with NSS Life. The minimum amount for life insurance is \$10,000 of permanent insurance and the minimum of annuity deposits is \$5,000. Not sure if you qualify? Reach out to the NSS Home Office at 724-731-0094 to find out and request an application. Completed applications can be mailed to 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 or emailed to bbonnar@nsslife.org and are due by May 1st!

Art Contest

If you are the type of person that is "drawn" to art, then we have the contest for you! Show off your masterpiece by entering the 2025 Art Contest! Submit your original art creations for the chance to win up to \$100.00 and have your art featured in a future edition of the *National News* and online on our NSS Life Social Media accounts! Share your talents with others by donating your art piece to a Pittsburgh Nursing Home. All submissions must be mailed or dropped off to 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 by May 31st. See later on in this edition for a complete list of contest rules.



Social Media

Want to know the winners from the recent NSS Poetry and Literary Contest? I'll let you in on a little secret – all winners are posted on social media before they make their way into the *National News*! Follow us on Instagram (@NationalSlovakSociety), Facebook (@NSS Life) and LinkedIn (@NSS Life) to see the winners and everything else going on with NSS Life!

Reading Matters

Spring is the perfect time to help "grow" the love of reading in your family! Youth members of NSS Life are eligible to participate in "Reading Matters"! We provide you with complimentary reading logs that your kiddos can use to track the books they read. Once the book log is completed, they can choose any charity they want to receive a \$50.00 donation from NSS Life! They also will receive some super special prizes and a certificate of achievement for the "Super Reader Award"!

This is a great way to encourage and reward your little one for reading! To sign up or learn more, email bbonnar@nsslife.org or call 412-770-2093.



Youth members (ages 5-18) can receive official Reading Matters Book Logs. Each completed book log will equal a \$50.00 donation from NSS Life to the charity of the reader's choice!

A JOINT TOURNAMENT OF GCU, NSS & SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

Meadows Lanes Bowling ⇄ Inside Hollywood Casino at the Meadows, Washington, PA
 Friday, May 16 & Saturday, May 17, 2025

No applications will be accepted after April 14, 2025

No applications will be accepted after April 14, 2025

Please note: Bowling Fees must accompany this application for the bowlers to be registered in the tournament. League bowlers must submit a copy of their league average sheet with their application.

BOWLER INFORMATION (LIST CAPTAIN FIRST)	GCU TOURNAMENT INFORMATION
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2023-24 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2023-24 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2023-24 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2023-24 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events

Please check one: Men's Events Women's Events

TEAM EVENT—FRIDAY, MAY 16

5 PM 8 PM

Team Name: _____

(Please place team bowlers in the order they will be bowling.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Name of your Local USBC: _____

Association Secretary: _____

Address: _____

Make all Checks or Money Orders payable to: NSS Life

Mail to: NSS Life Fraternal Dept., 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317.

Important: Every Individual and Captain on this entry agrees to relinquish his rights to prize money if it should be found that any information herein is false.

DOUBLE & SINGLES EVENTS—SATURDAY, MAY 17

9 AM 1 PM

1. _____
2. _____
1. _____
2. _____

Financial Totals for this Application	
___ Singles Event	@ \$30 ea. = \$ _____
___ Doubles Event	@ \$30 ea. = \$ _____
___ Team Event	@ \$30 ea. = \$ _____
___ All Events	@ \$5 ea. = \$ _____
___ Reception Guest (Friday)	@ \$15 ea. = \$ _____
___ Reception Guest (Sat.)	@ \$15 ea. = \$ _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____	

Important to All Tournament Entrants

Read Carefully Information Given Below

Rules and Regulations of Annual GCU/NSS Life/SCS Bowling Tournament

1. The Tournament shall be conducted in compliance with the rules and regulations of the USBC.
2. All members of the NSS Life are eligible to participate in this tournament.
3. All contestants must be members of the NSS Life as of April 15, 2025 or must have six months premium paid in advance at the time of entry. New bowlers must have bowled a *minimum of 21 games* as of March 15, 2025. *Bowlers with no average see #7 below.*
4. NSS Life adult members are required to maintain a minimum balance of \$300.00 in an annuity or have a permanent life insurance certificate, to qualify to participate in a NSS Life subsidized sporting event held on a national level i.e. National Bowling Tournament, National Golf Tournament, etc.
5. The total cost per person for each event shall be:
 - a. Prize Fee\$12.00
 - b. Bowling Fee.....\$12.00
 - c. Hospitality Fee\$6.00TOTAL COST (Per Event).....\$30.00
*All Events (Optional).....\$5.00
**Only bowlers paying the \$5.00 for the All-Events will be eligible for the cash awards.*
PRIZE FEE WILL BE RETURNED 100 PERCENT IN EACH EVENT
At least 1 of 10 of participants in each event will win prizes.
Note: Contestant may win only one cash prize event (gross or net), whichever cash prize is higher. Excluding special prizes. Awards will be presented to the Contestants who roll the highest gross and highest actual net scores in each event.
6. **SUBSTITUTES.** Bowlers may compete only once in each event. However, the tournament manager may allow a bowler who has previously bowled to substitute on a four bowler team when one of its original entrants is absent. The score of such bowler in the team event rolled with his entering team must count for all events. No one may bowl in this tournament except those originally entered before the tournament opens or such substitutes who may be authorized by the captain of a team or his appointee provided the individual whose name appears on the entry blank is unable for sufficient reason to attend the tournament at the time scheduled. The Bowling Committee shall have power as to the substitutes that are offered by the captain or his legalized representative, and if accepted, each substitute must bowl each event under his full name and only at scheduled time in each event. The substitutes score and handicap from the said event will be used.
7. Any contestant whose current average as of March 15, 2025 of *at least 21 games* is ten pins or more above his highest average from the previous season must use his current average.
HANDICAP - Handicap (Men) allowed will be 85% of the difference between 240 and last season's 2023-2024 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of March 15, 2025. Male bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as 175 average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in the Joint Fraternal Tournament, the most recent 5 year history from the Joint Fraternal Tournaments will be used. Male bowlers with an average over 240 will receive no handicap and will bowl scratch in the tournament.
Handicap (Women) allowed will be 85% of the difference between 200 and last season's 2023-2024 who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of March 15, 2025. Female bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as 150 average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in the Joint Fraternal Tournament, the most recent 5 year history from the Joint Fraternal tournaments will be used. Female bowlers with an average over 200 will receive no handicap and will bowl scratch in the tournament.
8. **FALSIFYING AVERAGES - PENALTY -** The team captain is responsible for reporting all averages of the individual team members, and they are responsible to him. Should the Tournament Committee find at any time that the averages have been falsified, the team shall forfeit all claims for prize money as well as their entry fee and will be subject to disqualification and suspension from organized bowling.
All prize winners are subject upon request to submit an affidavit of correct league averages.
9. **Rating of Bowlers -** According to USBC Rule No. 319 A-E, bowlers may be rerated by the Tournament Committee.
10. All entry applications and bowling fees are to be sent directly to: **NSS Life Bowling Tournament, 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317** not later than April 14, 2025. *Rule 310-A2 is in effect.*
11. Bowlers who participate in tournament games must be dressed in a presentable manner to appear before public and when possible to use an emblem attached to shirt or dress so that participant can be identified.
12. **NO MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED.** All prize fee money will be paid in prizes.
13. In the Doubles contest the names of both members of the team must be given, because entries with the word "Partner" will not be accepted. Entry blanks so compiled will be returned and the entry money retained until proper blank is received. If both entrants in the Doubles event appear when scheduled, it is understood that they must bowl as they have been entered on the original entry blank and no change in position will be allowed at any time after entry blank has been filed.
14. **Assignment of Alleys -** The Tournament Committee will make up the alley assignments for all entrants in the Doubles, Singles and Team Events. Entrants in the Doubles and Singles Events are required to report fully 30 minutes prior to the time they are scheduled to bowl.
Captains of teams must report their line-up at least 30 minutes before scheduled to bowl.
15. In the Doubles & Singles Events bowling entrants will bowl all six of their games on the same pair of lanes. Bowlers entered in the Singles Event only will be assigned to alleys by the Committee.
16. A team may use a name other than its league name for tournament entry without the payment of additional membership dues as formerly required.
17. Failure to use the correct average shall disqualify score if submitted average is lower than correct average thereby resulting in a lower classification or more handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the correct average. However, corrections in averages may be permitted up to the completion of the first game of a series.
Bowlers must include a copy of their league average sheet with their application.

Under no circumstances will handicaps be increased after participant has bowled.

Contestants in this tournament are not required to report any tournament prize winnings for the previous 12-month period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL
NSS LIFE MEMBER AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR
BETHANY BONNAR — (412) 770-2093



Youth Circle Magazine - Spring 2025



Buzzing Bees



S	W	B	F	H	I	V	E	H	O	N	E	Y
T	I	H	L	F	S	B	L	A	C	K	I	E
R	N	P	O	L	L	E	N	X	Q	S	N	L
I	G	H	W	Y	B	E	L	B	U	T	S	L
P	S	N	E	C	T	A	R	U	E	I	E	O
E	Z	B	R	O	U	C	H	Z	E	N	C	W
S	I	X	L	E	G	S	G	Z	N	G	T	G

Find these words in the puzzle. Words are hidden → and ↓.

- | | | |
|--------|--------|----------|
| BEE | HONEY | SIX LEGS |
| BLACK | INSECT | STING |
| BUZZ | NECTAR | STRIPES |
| FLOWER | OUCH | WINGS |
| FLY | POLLEN | YELLOW |
| HIVE | QUEEN | |



Easter Jokes

- Q: What do you call an unconventional Easter egg?
A: Egg-centric!
- Q: How many Easter eggs can you fit in an empty basket?
A: Only one. After that, it's not empty anymore!
- Q: What sport are eggs the best at?
A: Running!
- Q: Did you hear about the most beautifully decorated eggs?
A: They were to dye for!
- Q: What did the kids do when their treats were all hidden on Easter morning?
A: They demanded an eggs-planation!
- Q: Why are Easter bunnies more tired when Easter's in April?
A: Because they've just finished a long March.
- Q: What do you call a dancing chick?
A: Poultry in motion!
- Q: Why do people paint eggs for Easter?
A: It's easier than trying to wallpaper them!
- Q: What do you call a rabbit with fleas?
A: Bugs Bunny!
- Q: Why don't you see dinosaurs at Easter?
A: Because they are eggs-tinct.
- Q: How can you tell which rabbits are getting old?
A: Look for the gray hares.
- Q: What's the angriest vegetable?
A: A steamed carrot!



Antonym

Antonyms are words that have opposite meanings.
 Examples: old — young long — short awake — asleep
 Read each sentence. Write an antonym from the word box to replace the underlined word.

long slow over never old smallest out
 messy warm worst full close quiet float

1. The best movie I've ever seen is Lion King. _____
2. There is a crack in the wall under the window. _____
3. My bedroom is usually very clean. _____
4. The meeting was too short. _____
5. The store will open at nine o'clock. _____
6. Tim always finishes his homework right after school. _____
7. The cold weather will return next week. _____
8. That is the biggest watermelon I've ever seen. _____
9. My uncle bought a new pickup truck. _____
10. Come in and play with us. _____
11. If you drop a potato in water, it will sink. _____
12. Uncle Jim has a fast boat. _____
13. Jennifer is a talkative person. _____
14. The milk carton in the fridge is empty. _____

Rules: The person playing Simon gives commands, and the other players must obey the commands, or they are eliminated and patiently wait for the next game to start.

Simon Says

1. Sit down
2. Turn around in a circle
3. Jump up and down
4. Clap your hands
5. Wiggle your fingers
6. Touch your nose
7. Pucker your lips
8. Flap your arms
9. Do jumping jacks
10. Make a smile
11. Make a frown
12. Hop to the left
13. Hop to the right
14. Moo like a cow
15. Quack like a duck
16. Bark like a dog
17. Meow like a cat
18. Pat your belly
19. Put both hands on your head
20. Touch your ears
21. Stick out your tongue
22. Stand up on your tip-toes
23. Wink your right eye
24. Wink your left eye
25. Stand on one foot

Bubbly Bath Fizzies

Bath time is about to get a whole lot more fun with these colorful homemade bath fizzies. Drop them in the tub and see how they start fizzing — while leaving your skin naturally soft and smooth.

Supplies:

- 2 teaspoons unsweetened lemon drink mix
- 1 teaspoon flour or cornstarch
- 4 teaspoons baby oil or mineral oil
- 4 teaspoons Arm & Hammer Baking Soda
- Food coloring

Instructions:

1. Mix 2 tsp unsweetened lemon drink mix, 1 tsp flour or cornstarch, and 4 tsp ARM & HAMMER™ Baking Soda in a bowl.
2. Mix 4 tsp baby oil or mineral oil with 3-6 drops food coloring in a separate bowl.
3. Slowly mix the colored mixture into the dry ingredients.
4. Make small 1" balls of mixture, then place on wax paper to dry.
5. Wait 24-48 hours for Fizzies to dry completely.
6. Fill the bathtub, drop in a couple of bath Fizzies and watch your kids enjoy a whole new way to get clean! P.S. They make great gifts, too.

Dancing Popcorn

Ingredients:

- 1 quart-size jar
- 1 cup white vinegar
- 1 tbsp. popcorn kernels
- 2-4 tbsp. baking soda
- Water
- Spoon

Directions:

Fill the jar $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water. Add baking soda and stir until baking soda dissolves completely. Slowly add popcorn kernels 1 tablespoon at a time. Continue to add more if you want, however do not add more than $\frac{1}{4}$ cup. Slowly pour in the vinegar. You may not need it all, and if you pour too much too fast you will end up with a volcano-like eruption! Observe your dancing popcorn!

Here's How it Works:

Baking soda is a bicarbonate and it's a base. Vinegar is an acetic acid, which of course is an acid. When these 2 combine a chemical reaction occurs. As a result of this chemical reaction, carbon dioxide gas is produced. When this reaction happens under water the carbon dioxide gas is trapped in bubbles which then collect on the popcorn kernels. When enough bubbles have collected the kernels begin to rise. When the bubbles reach the top of the jar and hit the air, the gas is released and the bubbles pop. Once a few bubbles have popped there's no longer enough gas to support the popcorn and it begins to sink. What makes it dance? The process repeats! As the kernel sinks, more bubbles start to collect and it rises once more. The popcorn will dance and dance until the reaction has released all the carbon dioxide. **Want to make the experiment last longer? Just add more baking soda and vinegar!**

Dinosaur Night Lights

Supplies

- 16 ounce plastic mason jar with lid
- Plastic plants/trees
- Small rocks
- Sand
- Flat glass marbles
- Moss
- Plastic dinosaurs
- Submersible candle lights



Craft tools

- Hot glue gun
- E6000 glue
- Scissors

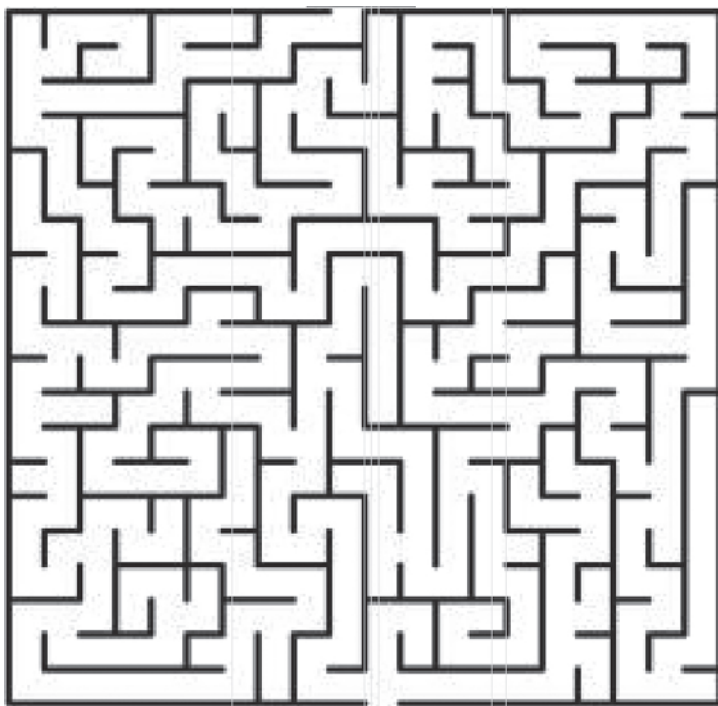
Instructions

1. Turn the moss upside down and trace the mason jar lid with a black marker. Cut out the moss circle.
2. Cut a strip wide enough to cover the band of the jar lid.
3. Use hot glue to attach the moss to the lid.
4. Turn the lid upside down and use E6000 glue to attach the submersible light to the inside of the lid. Hot glue will not hold as well.
5. Allow to dry completely.
6. Add sand to the jar first.
7. Place flat glass marbles, rocks, plants, and dinosaurs inside the jar to create a terrarium. Add moss for a natural look.
8. Place the lid onto the jar.
9. Glue a few rocks and a dinosaur to the top of the jar lid.

Tips:

Because the items inside the jar are not glued in place, you can rearrange your terrarium anytime you like.

START



FINISH

Graduation Hat Applesauce

Supplies

- Applesauce cups
- Royal Blue Cardstock
- Large googly eyes
- Yarn, floss, or twine glue

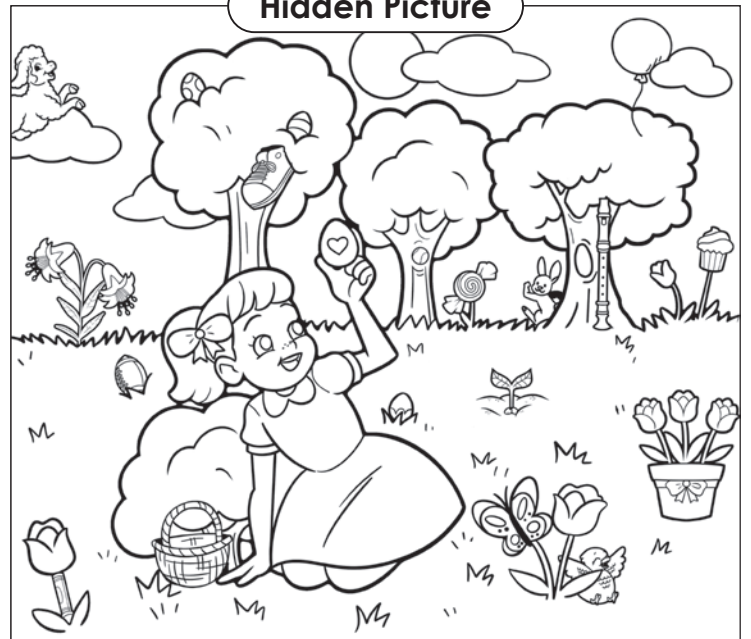


Instructions

1. Using a ruler, draw lines every three inches on the cardstock going vertically and horizontally, to form squares
2. Cut 3x3 inch squares out of the blue cardstock.
3. Use a hole punch to punch a hole into the corners of the squares
4. Write Congrats! Onto each piece of cardstock
5. Cut a few strips of yarn 3 inches long
6. Fold the yarn strips in half and push the curved end through the caphole
7. Pull the cut end through the loop and pull until tightened around the corner of the hat
8. Turn the applesauce upside down
9. Glue googly eyes onto the applesauce
10. Glue the cap onto the applesauce bottom (which is not the top)

*One kind word can change someone's entire day.
In a world in which you can be anything, be kind.
"Think left and think right and think low and think high.
Oh, the things you can think up if only you try!"*

Hidden Picture



Can you find the hidden pictures?



Last-Minute Mother's Day Gift Ideas?

So, am I the only one who has found myself scrambling for a Mother's Day gift at the last minute? With the big day just around the corner, I'm in need of some serious inspiration! Do you have any go-to last-minute Mother's Day gift ideas that never fail to impress? Whether it's something thoughtful and practical instead of jewelry or flowers.

I know my dad always takes care of it but I wanted to do something myself this year.

My gram-ma suggested that the best present I could give my Mother is to do some chores around the house. After thinking about it I know that would be an amazing present.

My chores began:

1. Picked up my dirty clothes in my room and put them in the hamper.
2. Wiped down the top of my dresser with a damp cloth.
3. Put all the toys and books away in a basket.
4. Hung jackets and backpack on the hook.
5. Stowed all the shoes in a bin or the closet.
6. Carried dirty dishes to the kitchen and placed them in the dishwasher.
7. Watered all the outdoor plants with a watering can.

I must admit, it did take me some time to do all of these chores and I thought "Why didn't I think of this?" I see my mother doing the same things every day.

Well as you all might suspect, I'm the best child in the world. No gift or flowers could have made my mother happier.

Love you Mother - Happy Mother's Day

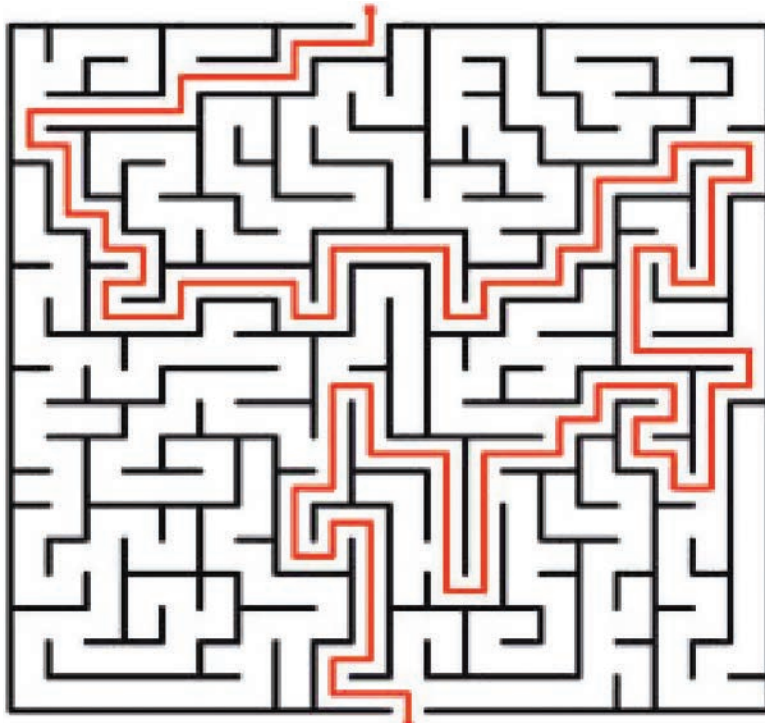


Word Scramble

In the Northern Hemisphere, May is a month when flowers bloom, the weather gets warmer, and school starts to wind down for the summer. Can you figure out the seasonal vocabulary words by unscrambling the letters?

- EENRG _____
- GHITL _____
- LLAIC _____
- ASRSG _____
- BTRUTELYF _____
- OBLMO _____
- SDSEE _____
- AOEMYLP _____
- ICPINC _____
- RESO _____
- SRDIB _____
- IHSNNSUE _____

- ATRSUU _____
- LOFREW _____
- OMSSLOB _____
- LDABGUY _____
- PATLN _____
- MBULEEBBE _____
- EGADNR _____
- ISNRGP _____
- OERTHM _____
- AHTWMR _____
- PUITL _____
- AELBALBS _____



Knock, Knock Jokes

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Goat.
Goat who?
Goat to the door and find out!

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
A herd.
A herd who?
A herd you were home, so I came over!

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Leash.
Leash who?
Leash you could do is answer the doorbell!

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Witches.
Witches who?
Witches the best way out of this neighborhood?

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Weekend.
Weekend who?
Weekend do anything we want!

Answers to Antonym

- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| 1. worst | 8. smallest |
| 2. over | 9. old |
| 3. messy | 10. out |
| 4. long | 11. float |
| 5. close | 12. slow |
| 6. never | 13. quiet |
| 7. warm | 14. full |

PVR Fund News

The PVR Board of Directors wishes our NSS Family a Happy, Blessed Easter! The Easter season celebrates hope, love, and renewal, after the sacrifices of Lent. We send all of you our sweetest thoughts during this time.

Thank you to all those who have donated to the PVR Fund recently. The PVR Fund Board's goal is to increase our fund to \$2 million by the 2026 Convention. We are 15 months away, with **\$324,226.17** left to raise!

Looking for an easy fundraising idea for the PVR Fund? Your assembly can host a baking challenge! Ask your members to pay a small entry fee and bake their best dessert – for Slovak bonus points, make it a kolači challenge. Appoint some judges, and hold a taste test during your next Assembly meeting. The desserts can be sold when judging is complete. This type of fundraiser is eligible for matching funds from the Home Office, up to \$500. If you'd like guidance when planning a fundraiser in your assembly, contact Bethany (bbonnar@nsslife.org) at the Home Office. Written guidelines and matching funds forms can be found on our website under "Fraternal -> Forms".

You can also help by designating the PVR Fund as a beneficiary on your life insurance policy or annuity, by purchasing a leaf or acorn for display at the NSS Heritage Museum, or by funding a perpetual scholarship. Call the Home Office for more information.

Many of our members have been recipients of a PVR Scholarship. The fund was established as a separate 501(c)(3) organization in 2004, but PVR Scholarships have been awarded for over 55 years. Thank you for your continued support!



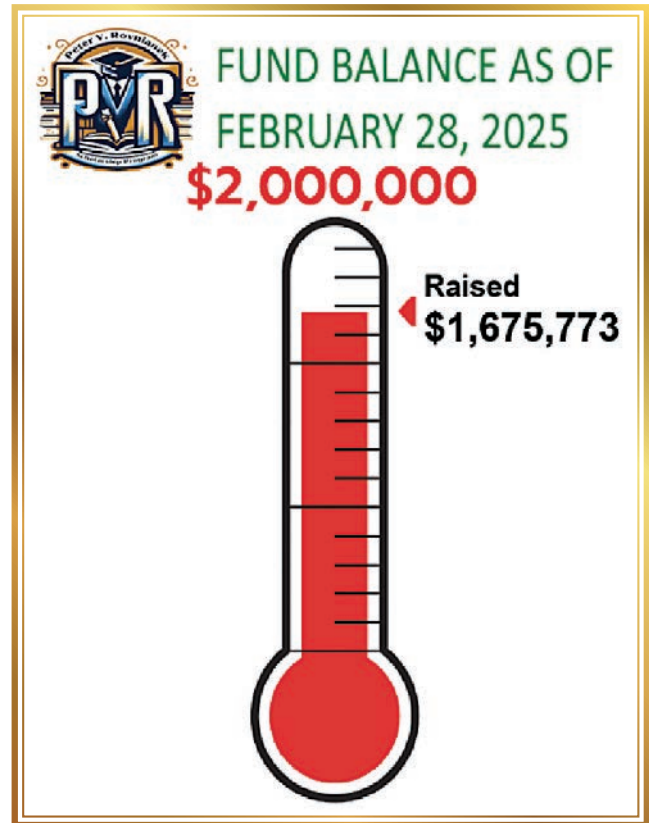
AWARDED 1999

NAME: Abigail Gross, Esq.

SCHOLARSHIP FIRST

Fraternal Greetings, NSS Family! I was awarded a PVR Scholarship while I was an undergraduate studying at Shippensburg University. In my family, I was the first person to pursue a higher education. The PVR scholarship was a blessing to someone like me. My college experience was completely funded by student loans – all of which I had to repay on my own (which also taught me painful lessons in both forbearance and interest!!) My journey eventually took me to law school. Earning a law degree and opening a law office were things that I never dreamed possible. Over the last 12 years, Gross Law Office has grown and thrived. I find tremendous satisfaction in helping my clients navigate difficult and stressful situations. My primary focus is workers' compensation law, but I also assist clients with social security disability matters, drafting wills and administering estates. My husband (Mike) and I live on a farm in New Tripoli – a rural town about an hour North of Philadelphia. We have 4 active boys: Elliot (11), Oliver (10), Spencer (7) and Hudson (5). On our farm, we have chickens, bees, a duck and a pig. Over the last 6 years, we have been planting Christmas trees to eventually open a "cut your own" tree farm. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the NSS as a National Director and for all of the benefits that come along with being a member. As they continue to grow, I hope that my boys will also become PVR scholarship recipients one day. We are getting closer to the goal of reaching \$2 million so the PVR will become self-funded!

Ďakujem veľmi pekne,
Abigail Gross



PVR Profiles

Attention, PVR Scholarship Recipients! We'd love to hear from our past PVR Scholarship Recipients and update our database with your current contact information. Please send us a short note to let us know how you are doing, update us on your lives, or even to share how the PVR scholarship helped you. We would like to publish at least one profile a month. Please send your notes via email to jpayerchin@nsslife.org. Here is our latest PVR Profile:

ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

WHAT A DEAL! \$50,000 insurance coverage for \$50.00 a year! Yes, that's right \$50,000 of coverage. Parents, grandparents this is unbelievable! Looking for a birthday present or Christmas gift for your child or grandchild. Cheaper than an Xbox game! In today's world, there are no guarantees!

Over thirty members turned out for our Lenten Dinner at Bob Evans Community Room and first meeting in 2025. We celebrated the beginning of the Season of Lent.



Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families of Maxie Anderson, Ruth Lincoln, Marjorie Machesney, Robert E. Sheeler, Joyce Sickles, Herbert H. Smith, Esther M. Ridenour, Dennis Smorada and Dollie M. Whiting.

Fall Slovakia Heritage Tour, available this coming September through Slovak Heritage Tours: 978-544-5144. Here is your chance to finally fill that dream of seeing "the old country"

Parents and grandparents, if you have a high school senior in your family, May 1st is the deadline to apply for a first-year NSS scholarship. Contact the home office for an application. **EARN US SOME POINTS!!** Enter the May Art Contest. Levels for ALL ages. Get your creative juices flowing and send in your art work. **Deadline: May 31st.**

Now is not too early to start thinking about being a delegate to the 2026 NSS Quadrennial Convention in Huron, Ohio (Near Sandusky). Our assembly is eligible for sixteen delegates. The convention is in the month of June.

Our next meeting will be our Summer Bar-B-Q on Sunday, **June 8th** at the Columbia Association Picnic Pavilion starting at 1:00 pm. We will be remembering "Old Glory" for Flag Day. Easter blessing to all,

Paul Payerchin
Secretary/Treasurer

ASSEMBLY RO59 Bethlehem, PA

Our thanks to Paula and John Lahutsky for hosting our February 2, 2025 meeting and to Sandi Keysock for providing desserts.

At this meeting we elected the following officers:

President: Alexandra (Sandi) Keysock
Treasurer: John Lahutsky,
Secretary: Michele Guydan.

We also made donations to the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry and to Warm the Children, an Orthodox Christian charitable organization that raises awareness and promotes donations for orphaned, disabled and needy children in Orthodox Church sponsored orphanages, homes, and missions in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Romania, and Greece as well as state run orphanages and institutions in these countries.

We made plans for a Matching Funds event, a hot dog luncheon to be held at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Bethlehem, on **May 4, 2025** to benefit the Miracle League of Northampton County.

Birthday greetings to Martha Sawarynski on April 17th and William Keysock on April 20th. **"Special"** birthday greetings to Michele Guydan who will celebrate on May 5th.

Our best wishes to all as we celebrate Easter (Pascha) together on April 20. "Christ is Risen!" "Indeed He is Risen!"

Michele Guyden
Secretary

Deadline For Publication

Please be advised that all articles, notices, etc., **MUST BE** received by the Home Office **no later than the 5th of the month.** Every effort will be made to publish the article and photos in a timely manner and space permitting. Also, all articles should be **typewritten in regular type or emailed to the Home Office. No Exceptions!!**



ASSEMBLY 0070 Brooklyn, OH

A Matching Funds was held for Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, Ohio for a Christmas Kielbasi Sale and their Kielbasi Dinner sale in January. Pastor Erik Markovich thanked us for our continued support.

John Karkosiak
Treasurer



Left to right are officers of Assembly 70, **Katie Karkosiak, Treasurer; Sarah Blaine, President; Fred Spann, Council President; and Pastor Erik Markovich of Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church.**

ASSEMBLY L102 Schnecksville, PA

Our assembly will be doing "Join Hands Day" on **May 11, 2025.** It will be held at the Butztown Post Office at 12 noon.

All members are welcome. Any questions, please call Sharon Wesnak at 610-769-7006.

Sharon Wesnak
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

Assembly 123 will meet **June 14th**, at 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Global Links. Contact us for details at **nss123@email.com**

Congratulations to our youngest member of our circle, Grover Ryan Scanlan, born on March 6th. Proud grandparents are home office employee Jill Grover and her husband Lyle.

As always, we welcome your ideas for activities, service projects etc.

Lyle Grover
President

ASSEMBLY L-161

Finally Spring has arrived along with the budding trees and flowers. After a few months of cold weather I hope you are all ready to get and join in some of the upcoming activities planned not just for our Assembly but for Region 5 and on a national level as well.

Volunteers will be needed to make Easter baskets for a local community food distribution center and Nursing home. We will also be placing flags in Christ our Redeemer Cemetery for Memorial Day.

Here are some dates to mark on your calendar:

April, 2025 – Matching Funds Hoagie Sale, Whitaker Fireman, \$12 each. Orders due by March 28.

Email: sue.ondrejco@gmail.com to order.

May 1, 2025- Meeting, Dukes Upper Deck, 122 W. 8th Ave Homestead, PA 15120 at 7:00 p.m.

For more information about volunteering or to RSVP for the meeting contact: sue.ondrejco@gmail.com.

Do videnia!
Sue Ondrejco
Secretary/Treasurer

ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

A meeting and luncheon will be held on **April 27, 2025** at Domenico's, 1565 Grand Boulevard, Monessen, PA at 3:00 p.m. Please bring a canned good for donation to the food bank.

Please RSVP one week prior to the meeting if possible to me at 724-207-3171 by text or a phone call or to our treasurer Bob Matko at 724-331-4122. Our future meetings are listed under Activities At A Glance.

We hope to see our members at these events and wish you health and happiness until then!

Suzanne Skrypak
President



ASSEMBLY 0432 Fairview Park, OH

Mark your calendars for all of our meetings and activities for the year of 2025.

June 10th - Meeting at the Pytel residence, 25680 Timber Cove, North Olmsted, OH at 7:00 p.m.

June 21st - Fore Corners Mini Golf, 12980 W Sprague Rd, Parma, OH at 2:00 p.m. *Members age 17 and Under Play FREE! We will also pay for an ice cream treat at DQ after your round! Come to this event. You don't want to miss it!*

September 16th - Meeting at the Pytel residence, 25680 Timber Cove, North Olmsted, OH at 7:00 p.m.

December 8th - Annual Christmas Party and Meeting at Tony K's, 841 W Bagley Rd, Berea, OH at 7:00 p.m.

Shawn Pytel
Publicist & Social Media

ASSEMBLY 0588 Avella, PA

A meeting will be held on Monday, **April 7th** at the Stefka residence, 5007 Old Orchard Lane, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 p.m. If you are planning to attend, contact Annette at 724-407-3591 so we can plan accordingly.

Annette Stefka
Recording Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0731 Lowellville, OH

Mark your calendars for our assembly activities we have scheduled so far for 2025:

June 8th, all day - Golf Outing at Bedford Trails, Lowellville, Ohio - Fundraiser to help support the efforts Mahoning County's Canfield Fair Junior Fair Board program called "Please Stay", focused on awareness, support, and prevention of youth suicides. Golfers and helpers needed.

June 20th - 5:00 p.m. - Picnic and Scrappers Baseball game at Eastwood Field, Niles, Ohio. Contact Laurie Fox to reserve ticket. (Free for assembly

731 members, \$25 for non-members)

October 12th, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

- Halloween Hayride at Countryside Farm, Poland, Ohio (Free for members)

December 7th, 2:00 p.m. - Christmas Party at Rotary Room in Lariccia Center, Boardman Park, Ohio (Free for members - watch for details late summer.)

Laurie Fox
President

ASSEMBLY 0737

A meeting will be held on Sunday, **May 4, 2025**. For further information, please call or text at 412-558-0314. You can also leave a message at 724-423-3992.

Time and place will be determined at a later date.

Andrea Garbon
Treasurer-Secretary

ASSEMBLY 813 Englewood, PA

The election of officers for our assembly was conducted in December, 2024 and there were no surprises. All officers were retained.

Dan Farrell, President,
Blaze J Farrell, Vice-President,
Mary Jo Holker, Secretary/Treasurer
Kerry Farrell, Eldress
Calypso, Fraternal Director

As usual we will be supporting several good causes in our area. Kerry Farrell and Jo Holker will be participating in a putting contest on April 12 at Adventure Land for the benefit of the Child Advocacy Center. It's fun for a good cause.

On March 3rd Dan and Kerry Farrell and Jo Holker donated money for tickets to Lundi Gras (It was sold out!) and the money went to benefit the Chrysalis Home for Girls. Because the event has already taken place by the time this is reported, we will just assume a good time was had by all and it was successful.

The Wire Grass Food Bank Brown Bag Program will benefit from this program for seniors wherein those enrolled get extra bags of food in the third week of each month for a year. The third week is when many of the seniors' shelves are getting bare. Mary Jo Holk-

er once again is working with Director David Hanks. The drive will run from **April 1st to June 15th** and is a Matching Funds project.

Another Matching Funds project, under the leadership of Kerry Farrell, is the "Cork Pull" project to benefit the Catholic Social Services on **September 20th** at the Thirsty Pig. Kerry will be working again with Stephanie Cronin of the CSS. They are hoping to be as successful as last year's program, and as much fun. We are always thankful for Kerry allowing us full use of her place of business.

We are considering other projects for later in the year, but this should keep us busy for a while.

All meetings for the year of 2025 are listed under Activities At A Glance. Also, all meetings will be held at 443 Rowland Road, Dothan, AL.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary-Treasurer

Assembly L102 Event



A great turnout for our Matching Funds Bingo for Hokey AA held on Sunday, March 2, 2025 raised over \$8,500.00 to help support our athletes.

REGION 2 Hazleton, PA

A meeting will be held for all assemblies in Region 2 at the Grotto Pizza, Wilkes-Barre, PA on Saturday, **May 17th** at 1:00 p.m. Those who would like to attend, please contact Lucy Piccoletti at 570-479-4116 or RSVP on our Facebook page at (NSS Life Region 2).

Also, Region 2 will be conducting a Matching Funds to support the local Moosic Parks. Move with Moosic 5k Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, **June 8, 2025** and start at 9:00 a.m. The event will kick off in our community and all proceeds will be used to rejuvenate or update our Borough Parks. To join the walk you can sign up at runsignup.com/movewithmoosic

After the race a celebration will take place at the Moosic Youth Center. For more information please contact Marlin Petro Wesnak, Region 2 President at 570-815-5035

Marlin Petro Wesnak
President

REGION 8 Cleveland, OH

Assemblies #4, #70, #160, and #432

The semi-annual meeting of Region 8 will be hosted by Assembly 4 and will be held at:

DATE: **April 16, 2025**
LOCATION: Dr. Martin Luther
Lutheran Church
4470 Ridge Road
Brooklyn, Ohio 44144
TIME: 7:00 pm
(PLEASE NOTE TIME)

Plans for upcoming events for 2025 will be discussed. Hope to see all assemblies from our region at this meeting.

Carole Koches
Recording Secretary

2025 Slovakia Heritage Tour

Let 2025 be the year you discover your Slovak homeland and reconnect with your family roots. Travel through the ever-changing landscapes. Rediscover the traditions you remember from childhood. Learn about Slovakia's history and why so many families left this beautiful country to settle in America. Walk your family's village streets and reconnect with the family who stayed behind.

Enjoy all of this and more – festivals, castles, music, outdoor heritage museums, the Tatry mountains – as a part of the popular **Fall Slovakia Heritage Tour, September 12-21**, or the new **Spring Slovakia Heritage Tour, June 20-29, 2025**.

"No matter how many generations their family has been in the States, Americans still have a longing to reconnect with their roots...the people, places, and lives that came before. It's in our DNA," said Judy Northup-Bennett, a Slovakia travel consultant who helps people with their Slovakia travel plans. Judy founded the Slovakia Heritage Tour in 2011 with Peter and Jane Blazicek of Best Slovakia Tours who now operate the tours.

Judy said people love the relaxed pace of the small-group tour that people can personalize to meet their own travel plans. They have a very good success rate in working with travelers before the tour on genealogical research and reconnecting with relatives that stayed in Slovakia. "People like getting off the beaten-track where they can experience their own family history as well as tour Slovakia and meet Slovaks today."

For more information on these heritage tours and to discuss your personal family travel plans, please contact **Judy Northup-Bennett at Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144, slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com or text 978-894-6622**. For a day-by-day itinerary and photos of past tours, visit www.slovakiaheritage.com.

National Slovak Society Heritage Museum Presents:

Kráslice Classes (Egg Decorating)

Saturday, April 5, 2025 Or Saturday, April 12, 2025

As the symbol of new life, Easter is the most important holiday in the Christian calendar. It has always been celebrated with joy and accompanied by numerous colorful traditions among the Eastern Slavs.

Experience the tradition of creating a colorful Easter egg of your very own!

Local artist, Mike Yanchak will guide you step by step through the process, while discussing the origin, techniques and symbolism used in creating “kráslice,” as they are called in Slovak.

Where: National Slovak Society Heritage Museum
351 Valley Brook Road McMurray, PA

Time: 10 AM - 3 PM

Cost: \$40 per person (includes all materials)

Class size is limited and designed for ages 12+.

Deadline for registration is March 17, 2025

Proceeds will benefit the PVR Scholarship Fund

CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED!

For more information email: nsshm.curator@gmail.com



Name: _____

Phone Number: _____


Email Address: _____

I want to attend the April 5th class _____ I want to attend the April 12th class _____

Please submit this form with your payment by March 17, 2025

Make checks payable to NSSHM

**Mail to: NSSHM
234 ILION St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207**



Blessing of our Slovak Easter Dinner

One of the most solemn and ancient rituals observed by Slovaks the world over is the blessing of Easter foods. Early Sunday morning the girls and women prepare a basket of symbolic foods to be taken to church to be blessed and eaten to celebrate the great feast of Jesus Resurrection. Each basket is beautifully decorated and covered with a beautifully embroidered or crocheted cloth. A blessed candle is placed in the basket and lighted during the ceremony as a sign of "Christ the Light of the World" A traditional Slovak Easter Basket also includes:

COLORED EGGS /MALOVANÉ VAJIČKA - Brightly colored and decorated the eggs are symbolic of Jesus Resurrection from the tomb on Easter Sunday; and of new life.

EASTER BREAD /PASKA - This sweet, rich yeast bread is symbolic of Jesus the Bread of Life. The bread is often ornamented with a cross of dough in the center surrounded by a circle of plaited dough symbolizing the crown of thorns.

PASTRIES/KOLAČE - Specially baked holiday butter and egg rich pastries filled with fruits and nuts symbolizing the many gifts from God and the sweetness of the resurrection.

SMOKED HAM, SAUSAGE AND BACON/ŠUNKA, KLOBASA, SLANINA - These meat products symbolize the sacrificial animals of the old testament and the sacrifice of Jesus. Ham was the most popular main dish meat because of its richness and symbolized the great joy and abundance of the Easter celebration. Spicy pork sausage with a garlic flavor is indicative of God's favor and generosity. A piece of smoked bacon cured with spices is added to remind us of God's overabundance of mercy toward us.

EASTER CHEESE /SYREK/HRUTKA - Made from milk and eggs and shaped into a ball this bland but sweet tasting cheese is to remind us that as Christians we should use moderation in all aspects of our lives.

HORSERADISH CHREN - Represents the bitter herbs used by the Hebrews during their flight from Egypt, and the bitter herbs used during Jesus' final celebration of the Passover meal.

BUTTER /MASLO - Shaped into a lamb figure to remind us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.

SALT/SOL - Salt is blessed because it is a fundamental seasoning and preservative necessary to sustain life. It is also symbolic of prosperity and justice, for it is Christ who sustains us to eternal life. Of course regional differences both here in America and in Slovakia may dictate other various additions such as wine, vinegar, or veal. Remember, since all the foods are blessed none is to be wasted. One of the most prized possessions of many with roots in the Slavic countries of Eastern

Europe is the Easter basket cover. These covers usually have symbols related to the Resurrection and the celebration of Easter. In many families, the cover is passed from generation to generation. The most common element found on Easter basket covers is the cross, the symbol of the resurrection. Pussy willows, and other spring flowers, as well as kraslice are also used in the designs. Quite often, the cover will carry the message of the resurrection in the language of the owner. Embroidery is the most common method used for making these covers, because many become family heirlooms. The design variations are quite extensive, and seldom will you find two embroidered covers that are identical. Each cover makes a unique statement about the owner's heritage and beliefs. If you are lucky enough to have an Easter basket cover I hope you will use it to cover your basket and continue this special custom.

By Sue Ondrejco

Easter Bunny Pretzels

Ingredients

- 1 bag, 16 oz pretzel snaps
- 1 bag, 10 oz white chocolate melting wafers
- 1 bag, 10 oz M&Ms Spring Mix chocolate candies



Directions

Preheat the oven to 250 degrees F.

Using a sharp knife, cut one M&M in half for the bunny's ears. Use a black edible marker to draw a bunny face on the blank side of another M&M of the same color.

Place 8-10 pretzel snaps on a rimmed baking sheet. Place one melting wafer on the top in the center of each pretzel. Bake for 1-2 minutes until the chocolate just begins to melt.

Remove the baking sheet from the oven and place the M&M with the bunny face in the bottom center of the chocolate wafer. Place the two M&M halves above the single M&M to form the bunny ears.

Set aside to cool and dry.

Repeat with all remaining M&Ms.





Easter Slovak Style:

Remembering the Priceless Treasures of Easters Past and an Inspiration for Easters of the Future

\$12 (includes postage and handling)

To Purchase item shown above,
 Make check payable to: **NSSHM**
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

Ten fun facts about Easter you (maybe) never knew!

1. The Easter Bunny originally comes from Germany
2. In Switzerland, they have an Easter Cuckoo rather than an Easter Bunny
3. Easter is named after the Anglo-Saxon goddess "Eostre"
4. In Poland, people wish each other "Happy Egg" Easter fun fact - World Translation (6)#5
5. The tradition of painting Easter eggs comes from Ukraine
6. The first hollow chocolate Easter egg in the world was made by the Bristolian Fry family in 1873
7. In the United States, 16 billion jelly beans are produced in the run-up to Easter
8. Pretzels were once the favorite Easter treat
9. Dancing in public is prohibited on Good Friday in Germany
10. In Poland, Easter Monday is known as national water fight day

Easter Greetings from the Officers, Board of Directors, and Employees of NSS Life to all of our Members



Slavic Studies Reception at the University of Pittsburgh

On Tuesday, February 18, 2025, the University of Pittsburgh's Slavic Department held a reception to highlight the achievements of the program. The Slavic Department offers language courses in Russian, Polish, BCMS (Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian), Slovak, and Ukrainian. The undergraduate program features a Russian major, and minors in Polish, Slovak, and BCMS. Summer courses and study-abroad opportunities are available through the Summer Language Institute.

The University of Pittsburgh is the only school of higher education in the USA which has a permanent chair of Slovak Studies and offers a minor in the language. Currently, Renáta Kamenárová serves as the Teaching Assistant Professor and Director of the Slovak Studies Program.

Slavic Department faculty and students presented several interesting talks about their learning experiences during the summer program abroad, including Abby Kraus, another Slovak Studies student, and students of Polish and BCMS. All found studying abroad a very rewarding and enriching cultural experience.

National Slovak Society member Professor Michael J. Kopanic, Jr. also attended the reception. He has funded a permanent scholarship for students who are studying advanced Slovak.

The Slovak Program and Slavic Studies Program welcome donations to help sustain the study of these cultures and languages. For more information, see the following websites: Slovak at Pitt: <https://www.facebook.com/Pitt-Slovak> Slavic Studies website: <https://www.slavic.pitt.edu/about/community-support>

Dr. Michael Kopanic, Jr.



Attendees at the University of Pittsburgh's Slavic Department Reception



Abby Kraus talks on studying in Slovakia

NSS SCHOLARSHIP FOR SENIOR MEMBERS A NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY FRATERNAL PROGRAM

~ PURPOSE ~

To encourage our older members to continue their education and to make fuller use of their leisure time.

~ MEMBER ELIGIBILITY ~

Any life insurance or annuity member, fifty-five (55) years or older, who has enrolled and successfully completed a continuing education or adult education course. Members may submit up to two (2) applications in one calendar year.

~ COURSE ELIGIBILITY ~

Vocational schools, community colleges and universities offer a variety of short-term courses which may include areas like computer training, cake decorating, photography, landscaping, small engine repair, ballroom dancing, etc. This program does not cover courses that assist you to maintain your current full or part-time job. (Example: We will not reimburse life insurance or real estate agents who take continuing education credits to maintain their licenses.)

~PROCEDURE ~

Members should enroll and pay for the course of their choice. Once the member has finished the class, he/she must submit an application, along with verification that the class was successfully completed, to the Home Office for approval by a National Officer. If the scholarship application is approved, the NSS will reimburse the **full tuition for the course up to, but not to exceed, one hundred dollars (\$100.00)**

**For more information, you may find it on our NSS Life website:
www.nsslife.org**

DEPARTED MEMBERS FEBRUARY 2025

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Ackerman, Sidney	Pittsburgh, PA	01/29/2025	0100
Adams, Annabelle C	Brownsville, PA	02/10/2025	0377
Adkins, Harold D	Madison, NC	11/02/2024	0774
Albarano, Frances N	Lilly, PA	01/11/2025	0737
Bacher, Gloria	Butler, PA	12/19/2024	0123
Badulak, Helen M	Shoemakersville, PA	02/15/2025	L102
Bauer, Mary	Glenshaw, PA	02/13/2025	L161
Beck, Harriet	Eighty-Four, PA	02/16/2025	0377
Bertovich, Anna E	Masontown, PA	02/07/2024	0774
Biggs, Patricia	Erie, PA	01/19/2025	0731
Bihary, Albert O	Portage, PA	01/17/2025	0267
Blackwood, Roberta J	Beaver Falls, PA	01/12/2025	L161
Blasko, Milan	Belle Vernon, PA	10/08/2024	0588
Bonkoski, Robert J	Cuyahoga Falls, OH	02/15/2025	0070
Boone, Walter	Leesport, PA	02/15/2025	L102
Boras, Helen	Orlando, FL	01/04/2025	L075
Boulton, Joan	Springdale, PA	02/06/2025	L105
Brady, Luke	Kearney, NJ	01/01/2025	0123
Bridges, William G	Pittsburgh, PA	01/13/2025	0100
Brooks, Betty	Hurricane, WV	01/19/2025	0774
Burkardt, Dolores	Johnstown, PA	01/19/2025	0737
Butchcock Jr., Michael	Mc Clellandtown, PA	01/22/2025	0039
Canady, Paul	Munster, IN	01/02/2025	0586
Cipa, Florence S	Monongahela, PA	02/18/2025	0377
Clark, Joyce	New Kensington, PA	01/25/2025	L105
Cline Sr., Ronald	Avella, PA	01/16/2025	0588
Colabrese, Loretta	Pittsburgh, PA	01/12/2025	L161
Colpo, Eugene P	Burgettstown, PA	02/08/2025	0588
Cook, Robert	Pittsburgh, PA	01/25/2025	L161
Coulter, Janet L	Brookfield, OH	01/29/2025	0731
Coxon, Marilyn A	Milwaukee, WI	12/14/2024	0774
Critchfield, Dolores E	Jeannette, PA	02/04/2025	0737
Crow, Susan S	Belle Vernon, PA	01/13/2025	0377
D Angelo, Anna	Pittsburgh, PA	12/29/2023	L161
Dangelo, David	Warren, PA	01/23/2025	0554
Danielczuk, Dorothy	Orange Park, FL	01/11/2025	0774
Deeter, Cleo	Cooperstown, PA	02/10/2025	0731
Dellera, Peggy	Rochester, PA	01/29/2025	0123
Denner, Mildred L	Friedens, PA	02/07/2025	0039
Desimone, Camille B	Marana, AZ	12/13/2024	0774
Despot, Helen M	Hollidaysburg, PA	01/16/2025	0267
Di Criscio, Mary Dolores	Latrobe, PA	01/21/2025	0737
Dioguardi, Antoinette M	Naples, FL	02/17/2025	0813
Donovan, Evelyn	Morgantown, WV	01/19/2025	0774
Dumke, Arthur M	Stow, OH	09/12/2024	0432
England, Edmond	South Charleston, WV	01/21/2025	0774
Ernst, Mary Louise	Pittsburgh, PA	01/12/2025	0100
Evans, Ruth	Rostraver Twp, PA	02/11/2025	0039
Everett, John	Baden, PA	01/19/2025	0123
Farcus, John	Youngstown, PA	02/02/2025	0731
Farmerie, Linda	Verona, PA	02/10/2025	L161
Frabell, Helen	Washington, PA	01/20/2025	0588
Franchek, Henry A	Imperial, PA	02/06/2025	0123
Frangquist, Lois M	Green Bay, WI	12/04/2024	0774
Frederick, Clarence R	Warren, PA	01/31/2025	0731
Fultz, Nancy	Milesburg, PA	01/15/2025	L040
Gallagher, Raymond F	Butler, PA	02/16/2025	L161
Gaskell, William	Greenfield, OH	12/27/2024	0595
Giammarino, Donato	Brevard, NC	12/21/2024	0774
Giampietro, John	Ashley, PA	01/15/2025	0617
Glagola, Paul	Keisterville, PA	02/10/2025	L105
Glutz, Harry	Warren, PA	01/27/2025	RO19
Grala, Mary	Trenton, NJ	09/10/2024	0123
Groves, Russell S	St Clairsville, OH	02/06/2025	0588
Habel, Robert	Meadville, PA	02/10/2025	0731
Haller, Joseph	Donora, PA	01/07/2025	0377
Hammer, Thomas	Reynoldsville, PA	01/21/2025	0554
Haney, Betty	Hershey, PA	02/13/2025	L102
Heeter, Carolyn E	Sligo, PA	02/18/2025	0554
Horon, John	Hollidaysburg, PA	02/22/2025	0267
Houser Sr., Richard Paul	Kittanning, PA	01/29/2025	L105
Huffman Jr., Raymond	Corry, PA	01/06/2025	0554
Hullenbaugh, Margaret	Jeanette, PA	01/31/2025	0737
Jerg, Gisela I	Cheswick, PA	02/11/2025	L105
John, Colleen Ann	Coral, PA	01/31/2025	L105
Jones, Anna	Birmingham, AL	10/14/2024	0100
Karabin, Mary Ann	Elkridge, MD	02/13/2025	0774
Ketterer, David C	Ellwood City, PA	01/21/2024	0731
Killebrew, Rose	Erie, PA	01/28/2025	0774
Kimmell, Betty	Greensville, PA	01/15/2025	0731
Knezovich, Anna Mae	Brownsville, PA	02/08/2025	0377
Kocur, Loretta	Greensburg, PA	01/24/2025	0737
Kolar Jr., Frank	Ruffsedale, PA	01/22/2025	0737
Kopcho, John	Ridge, NY	07/17/2024	0110

DEPARTED MEMBERS FEBRUARY 2025 (Continued from page 24)

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Koschnick, Ronald A	Wautona, WI	02/13/2025	0774
Kostrej, Anna	Munhall, PA	11/28/2024	0108
Kotvas, Stephen	Kent, OH	01/15/2025	0123
Krieger, Mary E	Pittsburgh, PA	02/03/2025	0441
Licato, Frances M	S Plainfield, NJ	04/05/2019	0110
Lieberum, Eunice	Marienville, PA	02/02/2025	0054
Lisanti, Geraldine	Pittsburgh, PA	01/31/2025	L161
Loftis, Joseph M	Pittsburgh, PA	02/22/2025	0123
Lucas, Leticia	Masontown, PA	02/15/2025	0039
Lynn, Clyde Russell	Belmont, OH	01/10/2025	0588
Mackin, Alvin James	Butler, PA	01/26/2025	0123
Markell, Velma	Saxonburg, PA	01/26/2025	L105
Masters, Kathy	Hamburg, PA	02/23/2025	L102
Matty, Helen	Belle Vernon, PA	10/18/2025	0377
Maurer, George	Ashland, PA	04/16/2024	L102
Mc Anlis, Douglas S	Arnold, PA	10/26/2024	L105
Mc Cartney, Raymond	Eighty-Four, PA	02/01/2025	0434
Mc Cullough, Eldria	Freedom, PA	01/13/2025	L161
Mc Donald, Joyce	Butler, PA	01/18/2025	0123
Mc Quaid, Gloria	Pittsburgh, PA	01/15/2025	0595
McClellan, Bernadette	Pittsburgh, PA	01/26/2025	L161
McCune, Dolores	Monroeville, PA	12/21/2024	L105
Miller, Barbara Ann	Kutztown, PA	01/19/2025	L102
Miller, Elizabeth L	Belmont, OH	11/24/2024	0595
Minch, Joseph	Mingo Junction, OH	01/25/2025	0595
Molchany, June E	Hellertown, PA	02/05/2025	0774
Moorhead, Albert J	New Alexandria, PA	02/10/2025	L105
Navaroli, Shirley M	Delmont, PA	02/12/2025	0737
Nesto, Joseph A	Rices Landing, PA	03/22/2021	0377
Niles, Francis K	Richland Center, WI	11/28/2024	0774
Norelli, Angelo	Glassport, PA	02/22/2025	0441
O'Brien, Regina	Erie, PA	01/20/2025	0774
Ogden, Richard	Shartlesville, PA	01/27/2025	L102
Overly, Jack R	Loveland, CO	07/14/2024	0236
Petach, Gary	Pittsburgh, PA	12/25/2024	0108
Peters, Judith	Cabot, PA	01/23/2025	L161
Petrus, Dorothy Jean	New Castle, PA	01/25/2025	0731
Piatt, Joanne	Washington, PA	09/06/2024	0434
Pickett, George	Meadville, PA	12/21/2024	0774
Piraino, Thomas	Indiana, PA	02/13/2025	0774
Polen, Sr., Richard	Brilliant, OH	02/01/2025	0774
Powell, Claxton	Reedsville, WV	01/07/2025	0774
Prester, Donald	Meadville, PA	01/25/2025	0731
Psica, Imogene	Irwin, PA	02/11/2025	0737
Roth, Norma	Delmont, PA	01/20/2025	0737
Roush, Gordon K	Hastings, MI	01/01/2025	0381
Saggio, Mark	Erie, PA	02/10/2025	0774
Sargent Jr., Carl	Uniontown, PA	02/19/2025	0039
Savannah, Joseph A	Butler, PA	05/08/2024	0731
Schafer, James E	Pittsburgh, PA	01/23/2025	0434
Seitzinger, Lorraine	Doylestown, PA	02/22/2025	R059
Serra, Joan C	Murrysville, PA	01/30/2025	L105
Shaw, Robert J	Fort Mill, SC	01/31/2025	0737
Shear, June D	N Manchester, IN	02/13/2025	0705
Sicher, Mario	Gold Canyon, AZ	01/21/2025	L161
Skipalis, Zigmund	Hanover Twp, PA	02/11/2025	0617
Smeltzer, Jay D	Brogue, PA	01/29/2025	L102
Smith, Barbara	Brockway, PA	02/12/2025	0123
Smith, Harriet	Bear Lake, PA	01/28/2025	0554
Smith, Lucy M	Smoke Run, PA	02/01/2025	0267
Smith, Patricia A	Greenock, PA	01/12/2025	0737
Smith, Patricia D	Coraopolis, PA	02/21/2025	0123
Snyder, Delores	Carnegie, PA	02/12/2025	0100
Spaw, Judith	Farmington, PA	02/07/2025	0039
Stevens, Patricia	Wiley Ford, WV	12/16/2024	0774
Stinson, Mary A	Erie, PA	01/07/2025	0731
Stoneberg, James H	Pikesville, MD	02/03/2025	0774
Straley, Suzanne	Butler, PA	02/01/2025	0123
Stroup, Wilda	Butler, PA	02/17/2025	0123
Swartz, William	Greensburg, PA	01/09/2025	0737
Tarasovich, Charles R	Pittsburgh, PA	02/16/2025	0100
Tartaglione, Joseph	Meadville, PA	01/25/2025	0731
Thompson, Maretta	Charleston, WV	01/23/2025	0774
Tilley, Wayne	Wyoming, PA	01/27/2025	L075
Vance, Mary J	Warren, OH	01/22/2025	0731
Walker, Mildred	Springdale, WV	11/26/2024	0774
Wenner, Ronald	Seneca, PA	02/15/2025	0554
Wilson, Mary Lou	Cherry Tree, PA	02/14/2025	0267
Wolz, Julia M	Pittsburgh, PA	01/07/2025	L105
Worley, Dona J	Bunola, PA	01/28/2025	0377
Yurchak, Marie	Tamaqua, PA	12/27/2025	0774
Zalac, Gertrude	Glassport, PA	03/27/2025	0737
Zeis, Daniel M	Chambersburg, PA	02/18/2025	0774
Zimmerman, Larry	Bowling Green, OH	01/21/2025	0381



DONATE TO THE PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Your donation may benefit your own son, daughter, niece or nephew. Every penny donated goes directly into the PVR Scholarship Fund.

1. Your contribution will help our young members achieve their academic goals.
2. Your donation may benefit your own son, daughter, niece or nephew.
3. Every year, requests for grants increase, making more demands on the PVR Scholarship Fund.
4. Your donation is tax deductible.

PVR Scholarship Fund Donations February, 2025

In Memory of our son and brother,
Shaun Logan Crowley:

From Kevin, Lori, Kevin Jr.,
& John Crowley 20.00



Zázraky jari
Spiaca zem sa prebúda. Červenky začínajú spievať, kvety sa dokorán otvárajú, aby nám oznámili, že je jar. Slnko roztopí chmúrnosť zimy. Strom, ktorý vyzeral tak obyčajne a mŕtvy, sa stáva živým. Toto sú zázraky jari.



Na svete oslavujeme Deň Zeme

Celý svet si dnes pripomína, aké dôležité je chrániť našu planétu. Medzinárodný deň Matky Zeme alebo skrátene Deň Zeme oslavujeme od roku 1970. Zásluhu na tom má environmentálny aktivista a senátor Spojených štátov z Wisconsinu Gaylord Nelson, ktorý si zaumienil, že prostredníctvom Dňa Zeme zareaguje na rozsiahle poškodzovanie životného prostredia.

Cieľom tohto dňa je, aby sme si pripomenuli našu závislosť od cenných darov, ktoré nám Zem dáva, a uvedomili si, že prírodné zdroje nie sú nevyčerpatelne.

Treba sa preto, a v dnešných časoch už dupľom, venovať otázkam ochrany životného prostredia a zachovania biodiverzity pre budúce generácie.



Akosi uctiť Deň Zeme?

Existuje viacero spôsobov, akými si môžeme každý po svojom „osláviť“ Deň Zeme.

- ◆ Chodte na prechádzku do lesa.
- ◆ Zasadte si obľúbenú rastlinku.
- ◆ Nenakupujte, čo skutočne nepotrebujete.
- ◆ Miesto vyhadzovania vecí ich radšej recyklujte. Porozmýšľajte, ako dať starému nábytku či oblečeniu nový nádech.
- ◆ Pohľadajte si vo svojom okolí dobrovoľnícku aktivitu, do ktorej by ste sa mohli zapojiť. Môže ísť o čistenie lesa či okolia vášho bydliska od odpadkov, zber žiab z ciest, sadenie stromčekov a podobne.

Aprílové pranostiky

Apríl zimný, daždivý, úroda nás navštíví.

Aprílová voda víno vypíja.

Aprílové počasie je rozmarnejšie ako ženy.

Panská láska ani aprílový sneh za veľa nestoja.

Apríl pekný, máj ružový.

Veľkonočné svätenie jedál

V sobotu po vigílii alebo v nedeľu ráno sa svätia jedlá. Svätenie vykonáva kňaz za asistencie miništrantov a kostolníka. Ľudia sa zoradia pred kostol a položia na zem prútené košíky



rôznych tvarov, v ktorých sú poukladané všetky druhy obradných veľkonočných jedál ako páska, hlávka, šunka, syrek (hrudka), klobasa, vajička... Jedlá sú prikrýté vyšívaným obrúskom. Kňaz vykonáva obrad svätenia s veľkou dôstojnosťou, okiadza tymianom nielen košíky, ale aj prítomných. Celý zástup obchádza tri krát, skláňa sa nad košmi, z ktorých medzi tým sňali obrúsky a kropí ich obsah. Po tretej obchôdzke zastane pred hlavným vchodom, kde pri improvizovanom oltári dokončí službu. “Po blahoslavi” sa veriaci rýchlo rozchádzajú, preto ešte stále platí povera, ten, kto s jedlom prvý dobehne domov, najskôr zoberie z poľa úrodu.

Veľkonočné vinše

Milostiplné a požehnané Veľkonočné sviatky, nádej z Kristovo víťazstva, vďačnosť a lásku voči Spasiteľovi, hojnosť zdravia a síl vyprosujeme všetkým úradníkom, čitateľom a Vaším rodinám.



**“HĽA, BOŽÍ BARÁNOK,
KTORÝ SNÍMA HRIECH SVETA”
(JN 1.29)**

Zo srdca vám prajeme,
Nech Kristova obeta na kríži
Sa pre vás stane zdrojom
Veľkonočnej radosti!





Youth Circle Page

Youth Circle of National Slovak Society • 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317

2025 May Art Contest

The rules are as follows:

1. You must be a member of the National Slovak Society to participate. Youth members (ages 5-16) and adults are eligible to participate.
2. Only one entry is permitted per member.
3. Contestants may create their artwork using:
 - a. Paint (pastels, watercolor, oil, tempera and cesium)
 - b. Crayons (wax or liquid)
 - c. Ink/Pencil
 - d. Charcoal
 - e. Glue, construction paper, glitter
4. Paint by numbers, stencils, or tracings will not be accepted.
5. The Artwork may be ANY size up to 11x14 inches and must be mounted on a mat board or poster board for display purposes.
6. All entries must include; name, address, phone number, age, assembly. Please have this information clearly printed on the back of each entry.
7. All entries will receive a complimentary NSS Life T-shirt. All participants should include their youth or adult T-shirt size.
8. If you wish to have your artwork returned to you following judging, please specify alongside your submission. The National Slovak Society reserves the right to keep all entries that do not include a request to be returned. All artwork that does not include a request to be returned will be donated to a local nursing home.
9. Winners in each age group will have their artwork displayed in the *National News* and will be published on the NSS Life Website and Social Media accounts.

Age Groups:

- Picasso Level - Ages 5, 6 & 7
- Rembrandt Level - Ages 8, 9 & 10
- Michelangelo Level - Ages 11, 12 & 13
- Van Gogh Level - Ages 14, 15 & 16*
- Warhol - Adult (Age 17+)

10. Prizes awarded in each level of every category shall be as follows:

- First Place.....\$100.00
- Second Place.....\$ 50.00
- Third Place.....\$ 30.00

Deadline for entries to the Home Office is May 31st.

Either mail or deliver artwork to: National Slovak Society
Attn: Bethany Bonnar
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

Judging will be done by an outside professional.

Decisions of the judge shall be final in all cases.

*In the event the First place winner in the Artistic Category - Van Gogh Level either enters an accredited Art School or pursues Art as a career in college, he/she will be awarded a one-time \$250 Art Scholarship provided that the student meets all the NSS PVR Scholarship rules and regulations.

Attention!!! High School Seniors Deadline: May 1, 2025

NSS is accepting requests for applications for the PVR Scholarship. The scholarship is for \$500 per year for a total grant of \$2,000. Below are the guidelines that you must meet in order to be eligible.

The student must be a member of the National Slovak Society (NSS) for a minimum of two (2) years prior to receiving a PVR Scholarship Grant. Membership will be verified by the Home Office.

The minimum amount of insurance required for eligibility is \$10,000 of **PERMANENT** life insurance or \$5,000 of annuity deposits. The insurance must be in force at time of application and must be maintained throughout the scholarship period. A reminder for those students already receiving the PVR Scholarship, don't forget to request a copy of your transcripts be sent to the Home Office at the end of the semester to make sure you are still eligible to receive your next installment of your grant.

Completed applications can be mailed to 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 or emailed to **bbonnar@nsslife.org** and are due by May 1st!

Funny Harmless Pranks You Can Do On April Fools' Day

Unroll the toilet paper and leave a funny message for the unsuspecting user. One option "Your going to wash your hands, right?" Scribble a note, roll the paper back up, and wait to see who ends up reading your message.

This oldie but goodie prank is easy to make at home with this tip. Add almost boiling to the ice trays and toss in a few plastic bugs. The hotter the water, the more clearer the ice will be when frozen.



That's why each year on April 22, more than a billion people celebrate Earth Day to protect the planet from things like pollution and deforestation. By taking part in activities like picking up litter and planting trees, we're making our world a happier, healthier place to live.

National Slovak Society
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

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FAMILIES FOR OVER **135 YEARS**



\$50,000 | \$50/YR.

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